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Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 95 (b)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Philippines*: draft resolution

Commission on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly established the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to serve as the institutional focus for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body responsible for coordination, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 1/

Recalling further resolution 47/180 of December 1992, in which it decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference that would be an organizational part of the Centre,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ General Assembly resolution 43/181, annex.

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Noting with satisfaction the positive role played by the Centre in the implementation of the Strategy and the human settlement aspects of Agenda 21, 2/

Noting with concern that two thirds of the entire increase in world population currently occurs in urban areas, so that by the year 2000 almost 50 per cent of the world population will be living in towns and cities, and that that trend is straining the capacity of Governments, at both the national and local levels, to mobilize the financial, technical and managerial resources necessary to sustain such human settlements,

1. Endorses the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fifteenth session (Nairobi, 25 April-1 May 1995), 3/ including its decision 15/1 on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; 1/

2. Takes note with appreciation of the contribution of the Commission and of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the preparations at the national, regional and global levels for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996;

3. Encourages the Commission and the Centre to submit their contributions to the preparations for the Conference to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, to be held in New York from 26 February to 8 March 1996;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the role of the Commission in the implementation and follow-up of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

3/ A/50/8 and Add.1.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990s

Philippines*: draft resolution

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/206 of 21 December 1990, in which it endorsed the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 1/ and 49/98 of 19 December 1994, in which it decided to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Reaffirming the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action, whose prime objective is to arrest the further deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the least developed countries, to reactivate and accelerate growth and development in those countries and, in the process, to set them on the path of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

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Expressing serious concern that the least developed countries as a group have not been able to achieve many of the objectives of the Programme of Action and that their overall socio-economic situation has continued to deteriorate,

Noting with concern the reduced flow of development resources to the least developed countries, their heavy debt service burden and their continued marginalization in world trade,

Taking note of agreed conclusions 423 (XLI) of 31 March 1995 of the Trade and Development Board 2/ on the annual review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s which was underpinned by The Least Developed Countries 1995 Report, 3/

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General 4/ on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

1. Reaffirms the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s as the basis for continuing cooperation between the least developed countries and their development partners, as well as its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. Endorses the measures and recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 5/ which are designed to ensure the full implementation of the Programme of Action over the second half of the decade;

3. Calls upon all Governments, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and all other organizations concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Programme of Action, taking full account of the measures and recommendations of the mid-term global review so as to ensure the reactivation and acceleration of growth and development in the least developed countries and enable them to participate in and benefit from the process of globalization and liberalization;

4. Welcomes the fundamental and far-reaching domestic reforms that are being implemented by the least developed countries, encourages those countries to continue such efforts and calls upon the international community to provide adequate support thereto;

2/ A/50/15 (Vol. I), chap. I, sect. B.

3/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.2.

4/ A/50/745.

5/ See A/50/745.

5. Strongly urges all donor countries to implement fully and expeditiously their commitments in all areas, including the agreed menu of aid targets and commitments as set out in the Programme of Action, as well as the measures agreed upon at the mid-term global review so as to provide a significant and substantial increase in the aggregate level of external support for the least developed countries, keeping in mind the increased needs of those countries as well as the requirements of the countries added to the list of the least developed countries following the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

6. Stresses the critical importance of multilateral assistance for the least developed countries, and calls for adequate replenishment of the International Development Association, the soft-term windows of the regional development banks and grant-based multilateral programmes;

7. Calls for strengthened efforts with respect to the international debt strategy in favour of the least developed countries through the adoption of concrete measures to alleviate the debt burden, including action in the area of multilateral debt, and increased concessional financing, and encourages the Bretton Woods institutions to expedite their ongoing consideration of ways to address the issue of the multilateral debt of the least developed countries;

8. Reiterates that increased opportunities for trade can help reactivate economic growth in the least developed countries, calls for significantly improved market access for their products and emphasizes the importance of concrete action to fully and expeditiously implement the Marrakesh Declaration 6/ as it relates to the least developed countries, the ministerial decision on measures in favour of the least developed countries and the ministerial decision on measures concerning possible negative effects of the reform programmes on the least developed countries and net food-importing countries, as well as the measures agreed at the mid-term global review, with a view to enabling the least developed countries to maximize the benefits from the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations 6/ and to cope with any adverse effects arising therefrom;

9. Reaffirms the crucial importance of the follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels;

10. Recalls that in its resolution 49/98, it invited the Secretary-General to make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, with a view to ensuring that the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had sufficient capacity to undertake an effective follow-up of the outcome of the mid-term global review and to follow up the conclusions and recommendations relating to the least developed countries adopted by major global conferences, and in this regard takes note of the proposals of the Secretary-General;

6/ See Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

11. Emphasizes the importance of the annual reviews by the Trade and Development Board of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the pressing need for enabling representatives of the least developed countries to participate in the annual reviews, and, to that end, requests the Secretary-General to include in his proposals referred to in paragraph 10 above necessary appropriations from the regular budget of the United Nations, beginning with that for the biennium 1996-1997, to cover the cost of participation of one representative of each least developed country in the annual reviews;

12. Decides that a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action will be carried out at a third United Nations conference on the least developed countries in the year 2000 and that the precise level, mandate, date and venue for such a review, as well as the preparatory process, should be determined by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, in the light of the consultations that take place under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

13. Calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session to take into account the outcome of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.